

APRIL 20, 1976

THE U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPE -- THE PRAVDA VIEW

ANNCR: MOSCOW'S PRAVDA HAS CHARGED THE UNITED STATES WITH VIOLATING THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT BY EXPRESSING CONCERN TO ITS WESTERN ALLIES ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN THEIR GOVERNMENTS. NEWS ANALYST FRED GALVAN HAS THESE THOUGHTS:

VOICE: THE OFFICIAL SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY PAPER'S CHARGE CALLS TO MIND THE CLASSIC ARGUMENT OF DEBATERS -- THAT THE BEST DEFENSE IS A STRONG OFFENSE. FOR THE SOVIET RECORD OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT ON EUROPEAN SECURITY LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED.

THE PRAVDA ATTACK, IN THE FORM OF AN EDITORIAL, CENTERS ITS FIRE ON THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT'S PROVISIONS COMMITTING ALL THIRTY-FIVE SIGNATORIES -- INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION -- NOT TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. BY ITS WARNING ABOUT COMMUNIST PARTIES IN WEST EUROPE, SAYS PRAVDA, THE UNITED STATES IS VIOLATING THAT PROVISION.

THE PRAVDA ATTACK HAS A STRANGE RING FOR ALL WHO ARE AWARE OF THE SOVIET UNION'S INTRUSION INTO ANGOLA'S POLITICAL LIFE. AN EQUALLY DISCORDANT NOTE WAS STRUCK RECENTLY BY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S PLEDGE TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY. HE PROMISED THE FEBRUARY MEETING IN MOSCOW THAT, WHILE THE SOVIET UNION WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS WITH THE WEST, IT WOULD AT THE SAME TIME CONTINUE TO SUPPORT NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS EVERYWHERE. THIS STATEMENT IN ITSELF VIOLATES THE SPIRIT IF NOT THE LETTER OF THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT'S PROVISIONS ON NON-INTERVENTION.

A LEADING AMERICAN NEWSPAPER, THE BALTIMORE SUN, PUT IT EVEN MORE STRONGLY. RECALLING EVENTS IN EAST EUROPE DURING THE PAST DECADE, THE SUN SAID: "FOR THE POWER WHICH CRUSHED CZECH INDEPENDENCE WITH TANKS TO DENOUNCE HERE WORDS AS INTERFERENCE IS INDECENT."

AT ANY RATE, BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT REACTED TO THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL'S CHARGE. THE WHITE HOUSE SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AND PRESIDENT FORD'S RECENT COMMENTS ON COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN GOVERNMENTS IN NO WAY CONSTITUTED THREATS. THE UNITED STATES POSITION, SAID THE WHITE HOUSE, IS SIMPLY THAT THE PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNISTS IN ANY NATO GOVERNMENT WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE ORGANIZATION. AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT MADE THE SAME POINT. ITS SPOKESMAN DECLARED: "WE DO NOT ACCEPT THE SUGGESTION THAT EITHER THE LETTER OR THE SPIRIT OF THE HELSINKI PACT PROHIBITS DISCUSSION OF EVENTS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY." THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN RECALLED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER REPEATEDLY HAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER COMMUNISTS WILL FORM PART OF A WESTERN GOVERNMENT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER TO BE DECIDED BY SUCH A GOVERNMENT AND ITS VOTERS. AND HE SAID THAT WHAT DOCTOR KISSINGER WAS DOING WAS MERELY DISCHARGING HIS FUNDAMENTAL DUTY TO POINT OUT WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN A WESTERN GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE.

IN SUM, THE UNITED STATES POSITION REFLECTS THE NATURAL CONCERN OF ANY NATO ALLY. FOR THE ACTIONS OF ANY PARTNER IN AN ALLIANCE BUILT ON INTERDEPENDENCE SUCH AS NATO INEVITABLY WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE REST.